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Sandbach Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH,

1920.

ROBERT RIDDELL,

M.B.C.M.,

Medical Officer of Health.

A. Simcox, Printer, Sandbach

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Sandbach Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1920.

Population, Census 1911 - 5723

„ Estimated 1920 - 6399

Physical Features.

Sandbach is built mainly on a sandy soil with a smaller proportion on clay, in rather a flat but healthy district.

Occupation of Inhabitants.

The district is Agricultural but in addition there are various kinds of industries but chiefly Chemical, Engineering, Wire Drawing and Salt Works, also Silk and Fustian Factories. All being carried out in large roomy buildings, and the industries are all on a healthy nature.

Hospital Facilities.

The serious and urgent cases are chiefly sent to Manchester Infirmary, St. Mary's, and the Pendlebury Children's Hospital. But locally we have 3 Hospitals, (1) Arclid Workhouse Infirmary with 80 beds and a very efficient Nursing Staff for the sick and infirm and where serious and urgent accident cases can be taken if necessary. (2) The Isolation Hospital at West Heath, Congleton, for INFECTIOUS DISEASES, which has 30 beds,—16 for Scarlet Fever, 8 for Diptheria, and 6 for observation cases if required. (3) The SMALLPOX Hospital at Arclid, reserved entirely for that disease, containing 10 beds, five for each sex, and which is in charge of a Caretaker and in constant working order.

Notification of Births Act.

This has been adopted and is of great service in allowing the Medical Officer of Health of the County to have a full list of the children born in the district so that he can send his health visitors to instruct Mothers of the best way to manage their young babies, and also to continue her visits to see that such instructions are carried out.

Water Supply.

This comes from an upland source by two mains, only one being in use at a time so that if necessary the other can be cleaned out without interfering with the supply to the town. It is treated at the Waterworks by Clarke's Process. The quantity is adequate in all weathers and the quality is all that could be desired.

Pollution of Brooks.

There is none of an injurious nature.

Sewerage System.

This is in very good order—it is on the Bacteria principle and the effluent is very clear and satisfactory. Districts removed from the main sewers are in some cases provided with cesspools, regularly emptied, others have a small scheme of there own, and in another portion where the ground is too low there is a suitable pump to take the sewage to a higher level so that it can be run into the main Sewer.

Schools Sanitary Condition.

The Schools are all on the Water Carriage System with the exception of Elworth, where a suitable number of pails are provided and are emptied by the Council's Carts, once weekly. The Schools are all well-built, dry and efficiently ventilated, and have windows which can be opened when required. The Schools are supplied with water and gas.

Milk Supply.

This is satisfactory in every way both as to quality and quantity. It is bought from farmers by Milk-sellers and distributed daily. The surplus finds its way to Sandbach and Middlewich Milk Factories

Food.

No complaints have been made and no prosecutions have been necessary during the year.

Slaughter Houses.

There is no Public Slaughter House, the existing ones are supervised by the Sanitary Inspector who visits them at all times and sees to their cleanliness and also that they are regularly whitewashed.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

We have no Child Welfare Centre yet. The Midwives are supervised by the County Councils Health Visitors; and their bags, books, and clothing inspected; and also the children afterwards are carefully looked after for their first year, which without any doubt is a great advantage both to the children and their mothers. There is a decided shortage of Midwives in the district.

Housing.—General Condition of.

1—Number of Houses 1422

2—Number of Working Classes 1138

3—New Houses ... ... None

4—Estimated Population ... ... 6399—4½ per house

5—Extent of Shortage, if any. This is very difficult to determine owing to the unsatisfactory state of the trade in the district, and so many families having to leave the district to work elsewhere.

6—Measures taken. The Council propose to build 24 houses and more if necessary.

Overcrowding.

Not nearly so bad as a year ago. Many of the people having drifted back to their own districts.

Fitness of Houses.

The general standard is good. Minor defects have been attended to as well as could be under the trying conditions of the Building trade. There are no unhealthy areas, and the Bye-laws in connection are satisfactory.

Birth Rate.

There have been 160 births—77 boys and 83 girls, against 60 boys and 62 girls in 1919.

Infantile Deaths.

There have been 14 deaths of children under 1 year of age against 10 in 1919. The causes of death being:—Broncho Pneumonia 3, Marasmus and Debility from Birth 6, Diarrhœa 2, Hæmatemeses 1, Meningitis 1, Whooping Cough 1.

Death Rate.

There have been 80 deaths (13 of the transferable deaths) during the year, making an average per thousand on the estimated population of 12·5. During 1919 there were 80 deaths (7 transferable) on the estimated population of 6,399. Chief causes were:—

1.	Cancer ...	...	7
2.	Tuberculosis ...	...	3
3.	Pneumonia ...	...	5
4.	Bronchitis ...	...	4
5.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	5
6.	Meningitis ...	...	2
7.	Heart Affections	...	12
8.	Marasmus, &c.	...	6
9.	Whooping Cough	...	1
10.	Scarlet Fever...	...	1
11.	All other causes	...	34
		—	80

Infectious Diseases.

There have been 29 cases of infectious disease: Puerperal Fever 2, Diphtheria 3, Erysipelas 2, Scarlet Fever 5, Poliomyelitis 5, Pneumonia 3, Tubercle of Lungs 6, other forms of Tubercle 3

During the year the following Schools have been closed:— ELWORTH INFANTS in January for Measles. SANDBACH HEATH in January for Mumps. SANDBACH COUNCIL in February for Measles. Seven of the Infectious cases were sent to West Heath. All the Schools closed were suitably disinfected before they resumed

Arrangements for Bacteriological Examination.

Morbid Products, Sputums, Swabs, &c., are sent to the Pathological Laboratory at Manchester, for Examination, and the cost is defrayed by the Council, also Sputums are sent to the County T.B. Officer, who reports free of charge. Vaccines and Serums are supplied by the Council when necessary or asked for.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

The Tabular Statement at the end of this report shows the total inspections which have been made and the number of notices served.

The Inspector makes a monthly report to the Sanitary Committee, and details are given therein of the progress of the Sanitary work in the District, and of action taken in connection therewith. Where improvements are necessary, or abatement of nuisances

required, a separate heading in the report is given to the particular property, and the requirements described, and the heading is retained month by month, and progress is reported until the work is satisfactorily completed.

A copy of the monthly report is placed on the table at each ordinary meeting of the Council.

The House to House Inspection under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulation 1910, which was commenced in 1911, has again been receiving attention and is described in the paragraph relating to the " Housing and Town Planning Act."

784 Visits to houses have been made by the Inspector in connection with nuisances, complaints, infectious diseases, house drainage, closet and ashpit accommodation, offensive accumulation, piggeries, &c.

The policy of interviewing owners and trying to get them to carry out improvements has been essential, as the difficulty of getting work done has had to be recognized during the year.

The enquiries and revisits at houses where infectious disease has been notified have been carried out by the Inspector of Nuisances, as well as the arrangements for the removal of patients to West Heath Sanitorium.

Immediately on receipt of notification each case is fully investigated and premises inspected. Full records are kept respecting those in contact with infected persons. in addition to the particulars of the house, sanitary arrangements, water supply, also milk and butter supply.

Infected premises and bedding are thoroughly disinfected and disinfectants supplied.

The Common Lodging Houses, Slaughter Houses, Bakehouses, Factories, Workshops, &c. have been regularly inspected and the particulars appear in the return at the end of the report.

Privies, Water Closets and other Closet Accommodation.

Conversions to the Water Carriage system are not as numerous as I should desire. Four Water closets have been fixed with proper flushing apparatus in the place of two pail closets and two privies. Twenty nine privies have been converted to the pail system.

The number and different types of closets are as follows:—

Water Closets	295
Pail	633
Earthenware	22
Privies	429

Removal of Refuse and Cleansing of Privies &c.

The work is carried out by contract and direct labour. The populated parts of the district outside the town are rather scattered over a large area. Every effort is being made to effectually cope with the work, an extra contractor has been engaged, and it is now possible to keep the whole district in a more satisfactory condition.

Improvements continue to be made in Ashpit accommodation. Ten ashbins have been provided by property owners during the year, at the request of the Inspector of Nuisances.

Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

The House to House Inspection under the Housing "(Inspection of District)" Regulation 1910, has been continued by the Inspector of Nuisances and the following inspections have been made.

No. of houses inspected	298
No. of Inspections including revisits ...	346
No. of Preliminary Notices served for Minor defects	12

Milk Supply.

Number of Registered premises at close of 1920:		Number of Inspections during 1920.
Dairies...	1	39
Cowsheds	15	
Milksellers	5	

Inspections made to private Slaughter Houses during 1920—96

Scavenging.

Midden Privies	—	
Ashpits ...	730	About every six weeks.
Pail Closets...	633	Weekly.
Dustbins ...	440	,,
Closet Privies	429	Every two or three months, or as requested.

The present system is satisfactory.

ROBERT RIDDELL,
M.O.H.

Sandbach Urban District. **Cheshire County Council.**

General Order of Local Government Board.

(Medical Officer of Health and Inspectors of Nuisances) December 13th, 1910

Tabular statement of Inspector of Nuisances for the Year ended December 31st, 1920.

A Number and Nature of Inspections made.	Number of Inspections.	B Number of Notices served.		C Result of Service of Notices.		Prosecutions	
		Statutory	Informal.	Notices complied with.	Remaining in hand.	Instituted.	Pending.
Dwelling Houses (general inspections ...	298						
Back-to-Back Houses	8						
Tents, Vans, Sheds, &c....	16						
Courts, Yards, Passages...	29						
Privy-Middens, Earth or Pail Closets ..	453		6	3	3		
Cesspools	67						
House Drainage	119		4	4			
Ditches, Watercourses, &c.	10						
Offensive Accumulations	36		2	2			
Keeping of Animals (P.H.A., 1875, S. 91 (3))	8						
Slaughterhouses (Private)	96						
Piggeries	34						
Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops	39						
Factories	44						
Workshops	39						
Bakehouses (Overground)	26						
Common Lodging Houses	43						
Canal Boats...	11						
Infectious Desease Inquiries and Revisits ...	22						
Totals	1398						

G. ALLMAN, Sanitary Inspector.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Tabular Summary of Sanitary Work during 1920.

SANDBACH URBAN DISTRICT.

I Water Supply.

1. Have any extensions been carried out during 1920 ? If so, please append brief note. No.
2. Number of samples analysed during 1920—chemically—
   bacteriologically—
3. Are any, and if so what, parts of your district still without a proper supply of water ? No.

II. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

1. Specify any new works of sewerage carried out during 1920. None.
2. Are any, and if so what, parts of your district still without a proper system of sewers ? Out-lying District near Wheelock, Ettiley Heath, and Coldmoss Heath.
3. Have there been any complaints to your knowledge during 1920 as to the Disposal Works ? No.
4. Have any alterations or extensions taken place to your knowledge in the Disposal Works during 1920 ? No.

III. Housing.

1. Number of new houses built during 1920 ? None.
2. Number of dwelling-houses inspected under s. 17 Act of 1909. 298.
3. Number of such houses considered unfit for habitation. None.
4. Number of representations made by Local Authority. None.

5. Number of closing orders made by Local Authority. None.

6. Number of houses where defects remedid *without* closing orders being made. None.

7. Number of houses where defects remedid *after* closing orders made. None.

8. Estimated or ascertained number of houses within limits of rent in s. 14 of Act of 1909. 1195.

9. Number of such houses in respect of which notice was served during 1920. 12.

10. Number of such houses closed after notice. None.

11. Number of such houses where Local Authority has executed necessary repairs, &c. None.

12. Approximate number of back-to-back houses in district. 4.

13. Approximate number of cellar dwellings in district. None.

14. What number of dwelling-houses for the working classes has your Council, decided are required under the recent Housing Act ? 30.

IV. Town Planning.

No scheme.

Inspection of Factories, &c.

Number of Factories Inspected	...	44
,, Workshops ,,	...	39
,, Workplaces ,,	...	4
	Total	87

Defects found in Factories, &c.

Want of Cleanliness ...	1 found	1 remedied
Sanitary Accommodation Unsuitable or defective.	2 found	receiving attention

Registered Workshops.

Workshops 30. Bakehouses 7.